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Acts 4:1-14 – The Rejected Cornerstone

- The Sadducees put the **disciples** in prison – Acts 4:2,3
- Most of the persecution in the book of Acts comes from the Sadducees
- Around 5 thousand people get **saved** from Peter's preaching at Solomon's porch.
- Scribes, Rulers and Elders “Religious leaders” are gathering
- They start to question Peter and John
- Peter gets **filled** with the Holy Spirit and starts to speak - Acts 4:8
- The Holy Spirit is meant to guide and lead us – John 14:26
- Peter then shares about Jesus being the chief cornerstone that was rejected
- This is the **3rd** time in Acts that Peter is telling people in Jerusalem that they have condemned Jesus the Messiah.
- This cornerstone idea is used in many places in scripture – Psalm 118:22, Isaiah 28:16, Jeremiah 51:26, Ephesians 2:19-20, 1 Peter 2:4, 6-7, Zechariah 10:4 and Matthew 21:42
- The cornerstone has been used in the Old Testament to talk about the Messiah.
- Peter is telling the religious leaders that they need to **turn** to Jesus that they have just crucified – Acts 4:12
- The religious leaders were **trapped**, they couldn't deny the miracle that was right before their face. They also couldn't deny what Peter is saying about Jesus – Acts 4:14

Acts 4:15-22 – Religious Rulers

- The religious leaders gather and try and **disprove** what Peter has said
- They don't seek for truth but rather had hardened hearts to what was said
- The religious leaders thought that if no one was talking about Jesus his name would die out over time
- So they decided to **prohibit** Peter and John from preaching the name of Jesus – Acts 4:18

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- The good news has been spreading and wasn't going to stop because the religious leaders said no to 2 of the disciples.
- This is shown by Peters immediate **refusal** – Acts 4:19,20
- The religious leaders get mad and threaten them
- This is the only thing that they can do, a last ditch effort
- We see them not being able to do anything else so they let them go

Acts 4:23- 31- Prayer of Believers

- We see the **prayer** meeting that follows this
- This was a united prayer meeting where they lifted their voices to God - Acts 4:24
- The **Church** strongly agreed in God's power and his sovereignty
- These are unified believers gathering in prayer
- The more we see the Gospel going out the more we Gods people wanting to gather and pray
- In the prayer they didn't ask for **protection** but they asked for power
- Their greatest desire was to see the good news going out
- Gods answer was to shake the place that they were at and give them power
- This was not a second **Pentecost**

Acts 4:32-37 – Unity in The Church

- Satan had failed in silencing the believers
- The Church **continued** to grow rapidly – Acts 5:14
- These early believers had a passion – Ephesians 4:12
- They were unified and of one accord – Acts 4:32
- Unity doesn't mean that they always saw eye to eye but that there was no divisions or **fractions** among themselves
- These early believers showed grace unto one another – Acts 4:33
- They **met** each other's needs – Acts 4:34
- These are devoted followers who are willing to give up everything
- Barnabas ultimately sells the land that he has to give to the Apostles